



MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

ONE ACT PLAY INSTRUCTION FOR JUDGES

The Sub-Section and Section Contests are designed to stimulate interest in theatre, but it is necessary that they also have as one of their purposes the elimination of contestants for the State Festival. However, it would be well to remember that neither the Sub-Section, Section nor State Festival is a strictly competitive event. Rankings and ratings will be made solely on the basis of performance and not on choice of play or theatrical style. Judges should have a well-established set of standards before judging the first production.

In judging the contests, judges should do the following:

1. Each judge is employed to aid in a program of theatre education. The results of her/his judging can either be a help or a hindrance. Care should be exercised in the wording of statements in order that they may be detailed, constructive and helpful. There is no place in Minnesota contests for unkind, sarcastic, caustic or other objectionable remarks. Be considerate in the type of comments given orally and written. Adverse criticism should be given when needed but presented in a constructive and helpful manner. Comments should be detailed enough to qualify the ranking and rating given in order that Directors may have sufficient suggestions to improve their work.
2. Judges must keep in mind that they are judging high school students and not college, university, or professional groups.
3. Judges should give close attention to the performance. Psychologically, pupils will accept an adverse decision if they feel the judge has given them fair and unbiased attention.
4. Judges will use the [Judges Critique Sheet](#) when evaluating the plays. A score must be given in each of the four areas and written comments must be included in the space provided. AVOID GENERALIZED STATEMENTS – BE SPECIFIC. Judges will still, independently, rank and rate each play. Judges must be sure that the scores and comments on the critique sheet directly correlate to the rank and rating of each play. The use of the “Directors Critique” is optional. This form allows the Judge to communicate with the Director on production aspects, which may not be appropriate to other forms currently in use.
5. Judges are to rank and rate all plays without consulting with the other Judges.
6. The Contest Manager is responsible for enforcement of contest rules; however, Judges and Directors must report rule violations or rule concerns to the Contest Manager. This must be done before the start of the next play or prior to the announcement of results for that contest.
7. Judges are reminded that the plays have already been certified to meet community standards. Plays also comply with the dangerous weapon rule.